

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

JULY 13 (legislative day, JULY 12), 1965.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. TALMADGE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 225]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 225) to amend chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, and incorporate therein specific statutory authority for the Presidential memorial certificate program, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Since 1962 the Veterans' Administration, at the request of the President, has been furnishing the next of kin of deceased veterans a memorial certificate expressing the appreciation of a grateful Nation for the devoted service to the country in the armed services. Many letters of approval of, and appreciation for, this program have been received at the White House.

The General Accounting Office, in 1964, questioned the authority of the Veterans' Administration to provide this sort of service. Although money was made available to continue the program, this legislation was introduced to overcome any doubt as to the authority for the action which has been taking place. The bill would provide express statutory authority for the Veterans' Administration to mail to the next of kin a memorial certificate signed by the President, expressing appreciation for the service of the deceased in the armed services.

The Veterans' Administration estimates that the maximum cost in any one year would not exceed \$35,000.

The favorable report of the Veterans' Administration follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C., June 3, 1965.

Hon. HARRY F. BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The following comments are furnished in response to your request for a report by the Veterans' Administration on H.R. 225, 89th Congress, passed by the House of Representatives on May 17, 1965, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, and incorporate therein specific statutory authority for the Presidential memorial certificate program.

As its title indicates, this bill would provide specific statutory authority for the Veterans' Administration to assist the President in his program of honoring the memory of deceased veterans by means of an appropriate certificate which is sent to the next of kin or other close relative or friend.

In 1962, at the request of President Kennedy, a memorial certificate program was undertaken by the Veterans' Administration. (Our participation in this presidential program consists of identifying the next of kin, or other eligible recipient, and actually forwarding the certificate to the eligible person.) This memorial activity has received wide acceptance throughout the country. Correspondence received from the next of kin of our deceased veterans has time and again emphasized the fact that few actions have brought as much solace to veterans' survivors as this certificate, expressing through the President the deep appreciation of a grateful nation for devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces.

During the early part of 1964, representatives of the General Accounting Office reviewed this program and advised that, in their opinion, there was a serious question as to our legal authority to assist the President in this memorial activity. We did not then, nor do we now, agree with this conclusion. We did agree, however, that it would be desirable to seek congressional resolution of the question. Accordingly, a bill, H.R. 10713, 88th Congress, was introduced upon our recommendation. While this bill did not become law, the Congress did provide, in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1965, that the Veterans' Administration general operating expense appropriation could be used for the "recognition of war veterans," thus providing for the continuation of the program. Identical language has been proposed for inclusion in the fiscal year 1966 Independent Offices Appropriation Act by the President's budget.

While the Presidential memorial certificate program is an ongoing activity, we believe that the enactment of H.R. 225, which would give the program a permanent statutory basis, would be desirable, since it would eliminate any question with respect to our authority to assist the President in this program. Its enactment would also provide specific authority for broadening the scope of the program to include the recognition of veterans who are not "war veterans." This extension would be in accord with the original intent of the program.

The estimated cost of the entire program encompassed by H.R. 225 would amount to approximately \$35,000 annually. Inasmuch as a memorial certificate program is now underway, although slightly more limited in scope than that proposed, any increased cost resulting from

the enactment of H.R. 225 would only amount to a small portion of this figure.

For the foregoing reasons, I recommend the favorable consideration of H.R. 225 by your committee.

We were advised by the Bureau of the Budget, in connection with a similar report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, that there was no objection from the standpoint of the administration's program to the submission of that report to such committee.

Sincerely,

W. J. DRIVER, *Administrator.*

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHAPTER 1—TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

Sec.

- 101. Definitions.
- 102. Dependent parents and dependent husbands.
- 103. Special provisions relating to marriages.
- 104. Approval of educational institutions.
- 105. Line of duty and misconduct.
- 106. Certain service deemed to be active service.
- 107. Certain service deemed not to be active service.
- 108. Seven-year absence presumption of death.
- 109. Benefits for discharged members of allied forces.
- 110. Preservation of total disability ratings.
- 111. Travel expenses.
- 112. *Presidential memorial certificate program.*

§ 101. Definitions

For the purposes of this title—

(1) The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

(2) The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

(3) The term "widow" means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title) a woman who was the wife of a veteran at the time of his death, and who lived with him continuously from the date of marriage to the date of his death (except where there was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the fault of the wife) and who has not remarried or (in cases not involving remarriage) has not since the death of the veteran, and after enactment of the 1962 amendment to this paragraph, lived with another man and held herself out openly to the public to be the wife of such other man.

(4) The term "child" means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title and section 5202(b) of this title) a person who is unmarried and—

(A) who is under the age of eighteen years;

(B) who, before attaining the age of eighteen years, became permanently incapable of self-support; or

(C) who, after attaining the age of eighteen years and until completion of education or training (but not after attaining the age of twenty-one years), is pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution;

and who is a legitimate child, a legally adopted child, a stepchild who is a member of a veterans' household or was a member at the time of the veteran's death, or an illegitimate child but, as to the alleged father, only is acknowledged in writing signed by him, or if he has been judicially ordered to contribute to the child's support or has been, before his death, judicially decreed to be the father of such child, or if he is otherwise shown by evidence satisfactory to the Administrator to be the father of such child. A person shall be deemed, as of the date of death of a veteran, to be the legally adopted child of such veteran if such person was at the time of the veteran's death living in the veteran's household and was legally adopted by the veteran's surviving spouse within two years after the veteran's death or the date of enactment of this sentence; however, this sentence shall not apply if at the time of the veteran's death, such person was receiving regular contributions toward his support from some individual other than the veteran or his spouse, or from any public or private welfare organization which furnishes services or assistance for children.

(5) The term "parent" means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title) a father, a mother, a father through adoption, a mother through adoption, or an individual who for a period of not less than one year stood in the relationship of a parent to a veteran at any time before his entry into active military, naval, or air service or if two persons stood in the relationship of a father or a mother for one year or more, the person who last stood in the relationship of father or mother before the veteran's last entry into active military, naval, or air service.

(6) The term "Spanish-American War" (A) means the period beginning on April 21, 1898, and ending on July 4, 1902, (B) includes the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion, and (C) in the case of a veteran who served with the United States military forces engaged in hostilities in the Moro Province, means the period beginning on April 21, 1898, and ending on July 15, 1903.

(7) The term "World War I" (A) means the period beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on November 11, 1918, and (B) in the case of a veteran who served with the United States military forces in Russia, means the period beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on April 1, 1920.

(8) The term "World War II" means (except for purposes of chapters 31 and 37 of this title) the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(9) The term "Korean conflict" means the period beginning on June 27, 1950, and ending on January 31, 1955.

(10) The term "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof.

(11) The term "period of war" means the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and the period beginning on the date of any future declaration of war by the Congress and ending on a date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Congress.

(12) The term "veteran of any war" means any veteran who served in the active military, naval, or air service during a period of war.

(13) The term "compensation" means a monthly payment made by the Administrator to a veteran because of service-connected disability, or to a widow, child, or parent of a veteran because of the service-connected death of the veteran occurring before January 1, 1957.

(14) The term "dependency and indemnity compensation" means a monthly payment made by the Administrator to a widow, child, or parent (A) because of a service-connected death occurring after December 31, 1956, or (B) pursuant to the election of a widow, child, or parent, in the case of such a death occurring before January 1, 1957.

(15) The term "pension" means a monthly payment made by the Administrator to a veteran because of service, age, or non-service-connected disability, or to a widow or child of a veteran because of the non-service-connected death of the veteran.

(16) The term "service-connected" means, with respect to disability or death, that such disability was incurred or aggravated, or that the death resulted from a disability incurred or aggravated, in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.

(17) The term "non-service-connected" means, with respect to disability or death, that such disability was not incurred or aggravated, or that the death did not result from a disability incurred or aggravated, in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.

(18) The term "discharge or release" includes retirement from the active military, naval, or air service.

(19) The term "State home" means a home established by a State (other than a possession) for veterans of any war (including the Indian Wars) disabled by age, disease, or otherwise who by reason of such disability are incapable of earning a living.

(20) The term "State" means each of the several States, Territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(21) The term "active duty" means—

(A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training;

(B) full-time duty (other than for training purposes) as a commissioned officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service (i) on or after July 29, 1945, or (ii) before that date under circumstances affording entitlement to "full military benefits" or (iii) at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;

(C) full-time duty as a commissioned officer of the Coast and Geodetic Survey (i) on or after July 29, 1945, or (ii) before that date (a) while on transfer to one of the Armed Forces, or (b) while, in time of war or national emergency declared by the President, assigned to duty on a project for one of the Armed Forces in an area determined by the Secretary of Defense to be of immediate military hazard, or (c) in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continuously in such islands thereafter, or (iii) at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;

(D) service as a cadet at the United States Military, Air Force, or Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy; and

- (E) authorized travel to or from such duty or service.
- (22) The term "active duty for training" means—
- (A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces performed by Reserves for training purposes;
 - (B) full-time duty for training purposes performed as a commissioned officer of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service (i) on or after July 29, 1945, or (ii) before that date under circumstances affording entitlement to "full military benefits," or (iii) at any time, for the purposes of chapter 13 of this title;
 - (C) in the case of members of the National Guard or Air National Guard of any State, full-time duty under section 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of title 32, or the prior corresponding provisions of law; and
 - (D) authorized travel to or from such duty.

The term does not include duty performed as a temporary member of the Coast Guard Reserve.

- (23) The term "inactive duty training" means—

- (A) duty (other than full-time duty) prescribed for Reserves (including commissioned officers of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service) by the Secretary concerned under section 301 of title 37 or any other provision of law; and
- (B) special additional duties authorized for Reserves (including commissioned officers of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service) by an authority designated by the Secretary concerned and performed by them on a voluntary basis in connection with the prescribed training or maintenance activities of the units to which they are assigned.

In the case of a member of the National Guard or Air National Guard of any State, such term means duty (other than full-time duty) under sections 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of title 32, or the prior corresponding provisions of law. Such terms does not include (i) work or study performed in connection with correspondence courses, (ii) attendance at an educational institution in an inactive status, or (iii) duty performed as a temporary member of the Coast Guard Reserve.

(24) The term "active military, naval, or air service" includes active duty, any period of active duty for training during which the individual concerned was disabled or dies from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty, and any period of inactive duty training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

- (25) The term "Secretary concerned" means—

- (A) the Secretary of the Army, with respect to matters concerning the Army;
- (B) the Secretary of the Navy, with respect to matters concerning the Navy or the Marine Corps;
- (C) the Secretary of the Air Force, with respect to matters concerning the Air Force;
- (D) the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to matters concerning the Coast Guard;
- (E) the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, with respect to matters concerning the Public Health Service; and
- (F) the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to matters concerning the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

(26) The term "Reserve" means a member of a reserve component of one of the Armed Forces.

(27) The term "reserve component" means, with respect to the Armed Forces—

- (A) the Army Reserve;
- (B) the Naval Reserve;
- (C) the Marine Corps Reserve;
- (D) the Air Force Reserve;
- (E) the Coast Guard Reserve;
- (F) the National Guard of the United States; and
- (G) the Air National Guard of the United States.

(28) The term "nursing home care" means the accommodation of convalescents or other persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care, but who require skilled nursing care and related medical services, if such nursing care and medical services are prescribed by, or are performed under the general direction of, persons duly licensed to provide such care. The term includes intensive care where the nursing service is under the supervision of a registered professional nurse.

§ 102. Dependent parents and dependent husbands

(a) (1) Dependency of a parent, which may arise before or after the death of a veteran, shall be determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Administrator.

(2) Except for purposes of chapter 33 of this title, dependency of a parent shall not be denied (A) solely because of remarriage, or (B) in any case in any State where the monthly income for a mother or father, not living together, is not more than \$105, or where the monthly income for a mother and father living together, is not more than \$175, plus, in either case, \$45, for each additional member of the family whom the father or mother is under a moral or legal obligation to support, as determined by the Administrator.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection in determining monthly income the Administrator shall not consider any payments under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration because of disability or death or payments of bonus or similar cash gratuity by any State based upon service in the Armed Forces.

(b) For the purposes of this title (except chapters 19 and 33), (1) the term "wife" includes the husband of any female veteran if such husband is incapable of self-maintenance and is permanently incapable of self-support due to mental or physical disability; and (2) the term "widow" includes the widower of any female veteran if such widower is incapable of self-maintenance and was permanently incapable of self-support due to physical or mental disability at the time of the veteran's death.

§ 103. Special provisions relating to marriages

(a) Whenever, in the consideration of any claim filed by a woman as the widow of a veteran for gratuitous death benefits under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration, it is established by evidence satisfactory to the Administrator that she, without knowledge of any legal impediment, entered into a marriage with such veteran which, but for a legal impediment, would have been valid, and thereafter cohabitated with him for five or more years immediately before his death, the purported marriage shall be deemed to be a valid mar-

riage, but only if no claim has been filed by a legal widow of such veteran who is found to be entitled to such benefits. No duplicate payments shall be made by virtue of this subsection.

(b) Where a widow has been legally married to a veteran more than once, the date of original marriage will be used in determining whether the statutory requirement as to date of marriage has been met.

(c) In determining whether or not a woman is or was the wife of a veteran, their marriage shall be proven as valid for the purposes of all laws administered by the Veterans' Administration according to the law of the place where the parties resided at the time of the marriage or the law of the place where the parties resided when the right to benefits accrued.

(d) The remarriage of the widow of a veteran shall not bar the furnishing of benefits to her as the widow of the veteran if the remarriage is void, or has been annulled by a court with basic authority to render annulment decrees unless the Veterans' Administration determines that the annulment was secured through fraud by either party or collusion.

(e) The marriage of a child of a veteran shall not bar recognition of such child as the child of the veteran for benefit purposes if the marriage is void, or has been annulled by a court with basic authority to render annulment decrees unless the Veterans' Administration determines that the annulment was secured through fraud by either party or collusion.

§ 104. Approval of educational institutions

(a) For the purpose of determining whether or not benefits are payable under this title (except chapter 35 of this title) for a child over the age of eighteen years and under the age of twenty-one years who is attending a school, college, academy, seminary, technical institute, university, or other educational institution, the Administrator may approve or disapprove such educational institutions.

(b) The Administrator may not approve an educational institution under this section unless such institution has agreed to report to him the termination of attendance of any child. If any educational institution fails to report any such termination promptly, the approval of the Administrator shall be withdrawn.

§ 105. Line of duty and misconduct

(a) An injury or disease incurred during active military, naval, or air service will be deemed to have been incurred in line of duty and not the result of the veteran's own misconduct when the person on whose account benefits are claimed was, at the time the injury was suffered or disease contracted, in active military, naval, or air service, whether on active duty or on authorized leave, unless such injury or disease was the result of his own willful misconduct. Venereal disease shall not be presumed to be due to willful misconduct if the person in service complies with the regulations of the appropriate service department requiring him to report and receive treatment for such disease.

(b) The requirement for line of duty will not be met if it appears that at the time the injury was suffered or disease contracted the person on whose account benefits are claimed (1) was avoiding duty by deserting the service, or by absenting himself without leave materially interfering with the performance of military duties; (2) was confined

under sentence of court-martial involving an unremitted dishonorable discharge; or (3) was confined under sentence of a civil court for a felony (as determined under the laws of the jurisdiction where the person was convicted by such court).

§ 106. Certain service deemed to be active service

(a) (1) Service as a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for ninety days or more by any women who before October 1, 1943, was honorably discharged for disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty which rendered her physically unfit to perform further service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps or the Women's Army Corps shall be considered active duty for the purposes of all laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

(2) Any person entitled to compensation or pension by reason of this subsection and to employees' compensation based upon the same service under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act must elect which benefit she will receive.

(b) Any person—

(1) who has applied for enlistment or enrollment in the active military, naval, or air service and has been provisionally accepted and directed or ordered to report to a place for final acceptance into such service; or

(2) who has been selected or drafted for service in the Armed Forces and has reported pursuant to the call of his local draft board and before rejection; or

(3) who has been called into the Federal service as a member of the National Guard, but has not been enrolled for the Federal service; and

who has suffered an injury or contracted a disease in line of duty while en route to or from, or at, a place for final acceptance or entry upon active duty, will, for the purposes of chapters 11, 13, 19, 21, 31, and 39 of this title, and for purposes of determining service-connection of a disability under chapter 17 of this title, be considered to have been on active duty and to have incurred such disability in the active military, naval, or air service.

(c) For the purposes of this title, an individual discharged or released from a period of active duty shall be deemed to have continued on active duty during the period of time immediately following the date of such discharge or release from such duty determined by the Secretary concerned to have been required for him to proceed to his home by the most direct route, and in any event he shall be deemed to have continued on active duty until midnight of the date of such discharge or release.

(d) For the purposes of this title, any individual—

(1) who, when authorized or required by competent authority, assumes an obligation to perform active duty for training or inactive duty training; and

(2) who is disabled or dies from an injury incurred after December 31, 1956, by him while proceeding directly to or returning directly from such active duty for training or inactive duty training, as the case may be;

shall be deemed to have been on active duty for training or inactive duty training, as the case may be, at the time such injury was incurred. In determining whether or not such individual was so authorized or required to perform such duty, and whether or not he was disabled

or died from injury so incurred, the Administrator shall take into account the hour on which he began so to proceed or to return; the hour on which he was scheduled to arrive for, or on which he ceased to perform, such duty; the method of travel employed; his itinerary; the manner in which the travel was performed; and the immediate cause of disability or death. Whenever any claim is filed alleging that the claimant is entitled to benefits by reason of this subsection, the burden of proof shall be on the claimant.

§ 107. Certain service deemed not to be active service

(a) Service before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including among such military forces organized guerrilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States, shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges, or benefits upon any person by reason of the service of such person or the service of any other person in the Armed Forces, except benefits under—

(1) contracts of National Service Life Insurance entered into before February 18, 1946;

(2) the Missing Persons Act; and

(3) chapters 11, 13 (except section 412(a)), and 23 of this title.

Payments under such chapters shall be made at the rate of one peso for each dollar otherwise authorized, and where annual income is a factor in entitlements to benefits, the dollar limitations in the law specifying such annual income shall apply at the rate of one Philippine peso for each dollar. Any payments made before February 18, 1946, to any such member under such laws conferring rights, benefits, or privileges shall not be deemed to have been invalid by reason of the circumstance that his service was not service in the Armed Forces or any component thereof within the meaning of any such law.

(b) Service in the Philippine Scouts under section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any of the laws administered by the Veterans' Administration except—

(1) with respect to contracts of National Service Life Insurance entered into (A) before May 27, 1946, (B) under section 620 or 621 of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, or (C) under section 722 of this title; and

(2) chapters 11 and 13 (except section 412(a)) of this title.

Payments under such chapters shall be made at the rate of one peso for each dollar otherwise authorized, and where annual income is a factor in entitlement to benefits, the dollar limitations in the law specifying such annual income shall apply at the rate of one Philippine peso for each dollar.

§ 108. Seven-year absence presumption of death

(a) No State law providing for presumption of death shall be applicable to claims for benefits under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

(b) If evidence satisfactory to the Administrator is submitted establishing the continued and unexplained absence of any individual from his home and family for seven or more years, and establishing that after diligent search no evidence of his existence after the date of disappearance has been found or received, the death of such individual as of the date of the expiration of such period shall be considered as sufficiently proved.

(c) Except in a suit brought pursuant to section 784 of this title, the finding of death made by the Administrator shall be final and conclusive.

§ 109. Benefits for discharged members of allied forces

(a)(1) In consideration of reciprocal services extended to the United States, the Administrator, upon request of the proper officials of the government of any nation allied or associated with the United States in World War I (except any nation which was an enemy of the United States during World War II), or in World War II, may furnish to discharged members of the armed forces of such government, under agreements requiring reimbursement in cash of expenses so incurred, at such rates and under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, medical, surgical, and dental treatment, hospital care, transportation and traveling expenses, prosthetic appliances, education, training, or similar benefits authorized by the laws of such nation for its veterans, and services required in extending such benefits. Hospitalization in a Veterans' Administration facility shall not be afforded under this section, except in emergencies, unless there are available beds surplus to the needs of veterans of this country. The Administrator may also pay the court costs and other expenses incident to the proceedings taken for the commitment of such discharged members who are mentally incompetent to institutions for the care or treatment of the insane.

(2) The Administrator, in carrying out the provisions of this subsection, may contract for necessary services in private, State, and other Government hospitals.

(3) All amounts received by the Veterans' Administration as reimbursement for such services shall be credited to the current appropriation of the Veterans' Administration from which expenditures were made under this subsection.

(b) Persons who served in the active service in the armed forces of any government allied with the United States in World War II and who at time of entrance into such active service were citizens of the United States shall, by virtue of such service, and if otherwise qualified, be entitled to the benefits of chapters 31 and 37 of this title in the same manner and to the same extent as veterans of World War II are entitled. No such benefit shall be extended to any person who is not a resident of the United States at the time of filing claim, or to any person who has applied for and received the same or any similar benefit from the government in whose armed forces he served.

§ 110. Preservation of total disability ratings

A rating of total disability or permanent total disability which has been made for compensation, pension, or insurance purposes under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration, and which has been continuously in force for twenty or more years, shall not be reduced thereafter, except upon a showing that such rating was based

on fraud. The mentioned period shall be computed from the date determined by the Administrator as the date on which the status commenced for rating purposes.

§ 111. Travel expenses

(a) Under regulations prescribed by the President, the Administrator may pay the actual necessary expense of travel (including lodging and subsistence), or in lieu thereof an allowance based upon mileage traveled, of any person to or from a Veterans' Administration facility or other place in connection with vocational rehabilitation, counseling required by the Administrator pursuant to chapter 33 or 35 of this title, or for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care. In addition to the mileage allowance authorized by this section, there may be allowed reimbursement for the actual cost of ferry fares, and bridge, road, and tunnel tolls.

(b) Mileage may be paid under this section in connection with vocational rehabilitation, counseling, or upon termination of examination, treatment, or care, before the completion of travel.

(c) When any person entitled to mileage under this section requires an attendant (other than an employee of the Veterans' Administration) in order to perform such travel, the attendant may be allowed expenses of travel upon the same basis as such person.

(d) The Administrator may provide for the purchase of printed reduced-fare requests for use by veterans and their authorized attendants when traveling at their own expense to or from any Veterans' Administration facility.

§ 112. Presidential memorial certificate program

(a) *At the request of the President the Administrator may conduct a program for honoring the memory of deceased veterans, discharged under honorable conditions, by preparing and sending to eligible recipients a certificate bearing the signature of the President and expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the Armed Forces. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient will not preclude authorization of another certificate if a request is received from some other eligible recipient.*

(b) *For the purpose of this section an "eligible recipient" means the next of kin, a relative or friend upon request, or an authorized service representative acting on behalf of such relative or friend.*

